



NEWS RELEASE  
*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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February 17, 2011

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg, Omaha Police Chief Alex Hayes, and Mickey Leadingham, Omaha's Resident Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

For being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm on January 31, 2010, George E. Banister, Jr., was sentenced by the Honorable Laurie Smith Camp, United States District Judge, to serve 304 days in prison, which will be followed by a 3 year term of Supervised Release, and to pay a \$100 Special Assessment.

In the early morning hours of January 31, 2010, Omaha Police responded to a call of a fight near 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bristol. When they arrived in the area, they saw three men walking northbound on the east sidewalk of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As the officers exited the cruiser, the three men turned into the walkway of a house on North 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. When police yelled "Stop. Police", two of the three stopped and walked toward the officers, while the third, Banister, hurried toward the front porch. Banister tried to open the front door without success. They saw Banister drop something and heard a heavy object hit the floor of the porch next to where Banister was standing. A loaded .22 caliber firearm was found where Banister had bent over. The firearm was the only object of significant weight on the porch. Banister was convicted of the felony offense Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Second Offense, in 2006, and, as a consequence, was prohibited from carrying a firearm.

**Name of Defendant:** George E. Banister, Jr.

**AKA:** n/a

**Age:** 31

**City of Residence:** Omaha

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is

**presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty):** Felon in Possession of a Firearm carries not more than 10 years in prison, not more than a \$250,000 fine, not more than 3 yrs term of Supervised Release, and a \$100 Special Assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Near 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bristol, Omaha

**Location of Arrest:** Near 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bristol, Omaha

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** n/a

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** n/a

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** January 31, 2010

**Federal Arrest Date:** April 29, 2010

**Date Complaint Issued:** n/a

**Indictment Returned Date:** January 31, 2010

**Initial Appearance Date:** May 3, 2010

**Plea Date(s):** December 20, 2010

**Sentencing Date:** February 17, 2011

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** n/a

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** Hon. F. A. Gossett

**Released from State Custody:** February 10, 2010

**Held without Bond and In Continuous Custody Since:** April 29, 2010

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Hon. Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** MDW